

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to novel nucleic acid reference standards comprising a nucleic acid comprising a known target sequence bound with a microparticulate binding agent where the binding agent includes liposomes, polyamines (*e.g.*, nylon), siliceous compounds (*e.g.*, silica gel, fumed silica, diatomaceous earth, glass particles, amine-modified silica, and the like), zeolites (*e.g.*, low alumina zeolyte), polystyrene (*e.g.*, amine-modified polystyrene, carboxy-polystyrene particles, and the like), chitin, chitosan, and combinations of these compounds. The reference standard is useful for use as a standard in any nucleic acid assay where the presence or absence of a nucleic acid of interest is being assessed. The reference standard is stable and provides a control for assessing whether the nucleic acid assay was performed properly. The invention further relates to methods of producing such reference standards and kits for using and producing the same pursuant to the teachings of the invention.

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